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## MEMORIAL DAY.

To-day, while earth is filled with bloom and sweetness,  
A wealth of flowers on lowly mounds is spread;  
To-day, amid the spring-time's full completeness,  
A nation mourns a nation's honored dead.

To-day our hearts recall, with musing sadness,  
Those years of darkness filled with blood and flame,  
That taught us all the curse of war's wild madness,—  
But when the night was past, the morning came,

Alike to rich and poor, to high and lowly,  
The dawn of peace brought sunshine like a flood;  
And still God's blessing crowns the land made holy  
By each departed hero's precious blood.

O "boys in blue," the brave, the unreturning,  
We crown you martyrs, and we call you ours,  
The while with reverence and with grateful yearning  
We give you tribute of our tears and flowers.

## DIARY OF THE SECRETARY.

*April 1-3.* Arrived in Washington and secured a comfortable room by the courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. La Fetra and their guests at the new and now crowded hotel "Fredonia." It is not so large, or elegant or expensive as many; but is neat, comfortable and "temperance." Special reductions were made to delegates to the National Reform Conference, which I attended afternoon and evening. At this meeting in Lincoln Hall, the numbers were not so noteworthy as the character of the audience and the specially high Christian tone and marked ability of those who participated. The National Reform Movement has reached all denominations of Christians in all parts of the country, but it originated with and is vigorously conducted by persons connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, which for numbers and strength centres about Pittsburg, Penn., and is composed chiefly of the descendants of the Scotch Covenanters.

The great object of the Association is to make the United States Government more Christian in word and deed. To this end, it advocates the formal recognition of God in the Constitution and the recognition of Christ in official appointment of National Fast Days. But its scope is broader than any specific legislation. It would have citizens acknowledge the divine origin of human government and use every effort to make the latter conform to its divine original. Hence it would legislate in favor of the Sabbath, against the liquor traffic, in favor of teaching Christian ethics in public schools by means of the Bible. It would solve the race problem by the Golden Rule and subject the war-system to Christian administration. It emphasizes the sanctity of the oath and resists the secular theory of government at every point. It preaches religion to citizens and politicians and insists on no double conscience dodge, by which a politician sometimes seeks to shield himself as a politician.

I was impressed with the ability and earnestness of the leaders, Dr. Stevenson of Philadelphia and Dr. McAllister of Pittsburg, and the high character of the work carried on by their district secretaries, and by thoroughness of the discussions led by such men as Jonathan Edwards of Meadville, Penn., President Covel of Worcester, Ohio, Mrs. Mary T. Lathrop of Lansing, Mich., and Dr.

Fitzgerald of Nashville, Tenn. Dr. H. T. Cheever made a clear presentation of the prohibition movement and recalled the days of Dea. Giles' Distillery when his brother, Dr. Geo. B. Cheever, still living near New York, was boldly striking for those reforms which have made such progress since. He was comparatively alone in their advocacy. I made a brief address on the relation of the war-system to Christianity, Thursday forenoon.

*April 4.* To-day was spent largely at the Capitol in conference with persons interested or supposed to be influential in the measures now agitated in Washington for the substitution of Arbitration for war. The Pan-American Conference does not invite visitors but I was able to learn all I desired of its *personnel*, its purposes and probable outcome.

The Sherman resolution passed the House of Representatives to-day and was returned to the Senate where it originated. Of this I was assured by the engrossing clerk, though by some mistake the action of the House did not appear upon the published *Congressional Record*. This resolution and its passage were recorded in the *Washington Post*. But so little attention do peace as compared with war measures excite, that I doubt if this good news was telegraphed to the press of the country, which to-morrow will be filled with a thousand trivial matters about persons and offices which some one "aids" the reporters to publish. I was glad to meet Dr. McMurdy, Secretary of the Arbitration League and learn of his restored health, also Mr. S. Baldwin and Dr. H. N. Howard of the Post Office Department who have been members of the same. I learned of the good impression made by the public meeting presided over by Judge Harlan and addressed by Rev. Dr. Hamlin of the Church of the Covenant and Rev. Dr. G. D. Boardman of Philadelphia. My college classmate, James D. Strout, librarian, kindly aided me in searches for peace literature in the Capitol Library.

*April 5.* To-day was spent much like yesterday. I was again an interested spectator from what might almost be called in old time parlance the "colored galleries" of the two Houses of Congress, the negroes predominating among the lookers on. It is interesting to "look down" upon honorable Senators and Representatives, listen to the discussions and identify the persons with their "report" as the latter had reached me. Senator Blair looks tired and sad after the defeat of his "Bill," which for years he has urged upon Congress, chiefly in the interest of an intelligent ballot by the illiterates, especially in the Southern States. One Senator declared that the bill and its defeat was owing to the opposition of Jesuits to free public schools, through which it proposed to expend some \$79,000,000 in the course of several years. Another reason given was Senator Hawley's speech in favor of economy, lest the abatement of the tariff, the building of a navy should not only wipe out the "surplus" but also create a deficiency and make the Republican party responsible for a financial disaster. Others charged that Senator Hale of Maine had such a desire to obtain money for naval expenditure under his pet bill that he therefore opposed appropriations for schools. Some men at the South professed to be too proud to receive national aid for their State schools, especially as the poor and illiterate freedmen were "their own" to care for. Others doubted the character of the school officers on whom the responsibility of disbursement in such a State as Tennessee would